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years. And so then the state government did not take money from General Fund to support the State Fair, because it had its own source. With that decline, that gaming money, if you will, or gambling money, has come back to us in the General Fund, but it's not gone to the Nebraska State Fair support. But I think we are in a new era for the Nebraska State Fair. deplore the decline that's occurred in the Nebraska State Fair the last 10 or 15 years. I think there is a place in the state for the Nebraska State Fair in Nebraska's future. It brings many Nebraskans together today, and I think it will continue to do so tomorrow. And I don't think it's time for us to write off the Nebraska State Fair. This is just one part of that financial future that I think could be assured if we would allow this checkoff and let Nebraskans voluntarily support their State And I think, in my own mind, that the support level will reach more like the Endangered Species Act, if you will, than it will on the campaign finance And that's no disrespect to Senator Beutler. But that's...I think that's where Nebraskans have their interest. I think we can bring...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...the Nebraska State Fair back to where it's important in Nebraska's culture, because certainly it's been in Nebraska's culture and history. Eighteen fifty-nine. one of the first things they did. And the next two fairs, by the way, were in 1868 and 1869, in Nebraska City. And the first one, I think. I'm not sure, but I think it was in Brownville. So it was in the eastern part of the state as the state developed. And I know many will say, well, that's a hundred and some years ago, it's not apropos today. But there's still a large rural constituency, and even a nonrural constituency that brings their wares to the Nebraska State Fair to have the friendly competition, what have you, what have you. It's still And I think a place, in many cases, to meet your neighbor. anything that we can do at this point, short of General Funds, which, that debate will come later, believe me it will, this is an opportunity for them to help themselves. So I strongly support this bill with this amendment. Let's see how it works. And if it works, I think it'll...